

is important for America's national security and for reducing illegal immigration.

Letter to Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Supplemental Appropriation Request

June 30, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed request in the amount of \$975 million for a supplemental appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

I am requesting these resources to cover the increased costs in FY 2005 that the VA is experiencing in its medical care system.

As Secretary Nicholson informed the Congress on June 28th, additional needs in the VA medical care system have also been identified for FY 2006. Details on specific FY 2006 requirements are under review and will be transmitted separately. My Administration is committed to ensuring that our Nation's veterans continue to receive timely and high-quality health care.

The details of the FY 2005 request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks on the Resignation of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor From the Supreme Court of the United States

July 1, 2005

Good morning. A short time ago I had a warm conversation with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has decided to retire from the Supreme Court of the United States. America is proud of Justice O'Connor's distinguished service, and I'm proud to know her. Today, she has the gratitude of her fellow citizens, and she and John and their family have our respect and good wishes.

Sandra Day O'Connor joined the Nation's highest court in 1981 as the first woman ever appointed to that position. Throughout her tenure she has been a discerning and conscientious judge and a public servant of complete integrity. Justice O'Connor's great intellect, wisdom, and personal decency have won her the esteem of her colleagues and our country.

Under the Constitution, I am responsible for nominating a successor to Justice O'Connor. I take this responsibility seriously. I will be deliberate and thorough in this process. I have directed my staff, in cooperation with the Department of Justice, to compile information and recommend for my review potential nominees who meet a high standard of legal ability, judgment, and integrity and who will faithfully interpret the Constitution and laws of our country.

As well I will continue to consult, as will my advisers, with Members of the United States Senate. The Nation deserves and I will select a Supreme Court Justice that Americans can be proud of. The Nation also deserves a dignified process of confirmation in the United States Senate, characterized by fair treatment, a fair hearing, and a fair vote. I will choose a nominee in a timely manner so that the hearing and the vote can be completed before the new Supreme Court term begins.

Today, however, is a day to honor the contributions of a fine citizen and a great patriot. Many years ago, Sandra Day O'Connor chose the path of public service, and she served with distinction as a legislator and a judge in Arizona before joining the Supreme Court. When President Ronald Reagan appointed Justice O'Connor 24 years ago, Americans had high expectations of her, and she has surpassed those expectations in the performance of her duties.

This great lady, born in El Paso, Texas, rose above the obstacles of an earlier time and became one of the most admired Americans of our time. She leaves an outstanding record of service to the United States, and our Nation is deeply grateful.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2005

July 1, 2005

Since July 4, 1776, Americans have experienced freedom's power to overcome tyranny, inspire hope in times of trial, and turn the creative gifts of men and women to the pursuits of peace. Across generations, our Nation has defended and advanced liberty.

The words of our Founding Fathers first guided a country of 4 million souls, yet they put large events in motion. When the Liberty Bell sounded at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, one who witnessed the birth of freedom in our country said, "It rang as if it meant something." In our time it means something still. America continues to proclaim liberty throughout the world, and we remain a country full of hope and promise where opportunity thrives, where all stand equal before the law, and where our freedoms are celebrated.

Americans live in freedom because of the enduring power of our ideals. In the midst of World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt reminded our troops that our Nation believes in the "right to liberty under God—for all peoples and races and groups and nations, everywhere in the world." Today, a new generation of Americans continues to defend our Nation and spread freedom. On this Fourth of July, we honor the brave men and women of our military, and their families, and we express our gratitude for their courage, dedication to duty, and love of country.

Laura and I send our best wishes to all Americans on Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Assignment of Reporting Function

July 1, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assignment of Reporting Function

My memorandum on "Assignment of Reporting Functions under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004" of April 21, 2005, is amended by striking "7119(a)" and inserting in lieu thereof "7120."

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 26

In the afternoon, the President attended a White House tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

June 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, on the South Lawn, he participated in a photo opportunity with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Motorcycle Escort Officers.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany. Later, he had a meeting with members of the Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America's Social Security.

Later in the afternoon, in the East Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the 2005 Presidential Scholars.